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CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

HIS EXCELLENCY,

President Abraham Lincoln,

THE

HON. SIMON CAMERON,

SECRETARY OF WAR,

GOVERNORS ISRAEL WASHBURN, OF MAINE; ICHABOD GODWIN,
OF N. H.; ERASTUS FAIRBANKS, OF VERMONT; JOHN A.
ANDREW, OF MASS.; W. A. BUCKINGHAM, OF CONN.;
CHAS. S. OLDEN, OF N. J.; ANDREW CURTIN,
OF PENN.; WM. DENNISON, OF OHIO;
AUSTIN BLAIR, OF MICH.; ALEX.
RAMSEY, OF MINN.; RICH'D
YATES, OF ILLINOIS,

WITH

GENERAL HIRAM WALBRIDGE,

OF NEW YORK.

IN 1861.

NEW YORK:

JOHN F. TROW, PRINTER, 50 GREENE STREET.

1865.

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MEMORANDUM:

FOR

His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. THE country should be put upon a war footing for not less than three years, with an enrolment of six hundred thousand men, of which half that number should never leave the field, until this odious rebellion is crushed, treason annihilated, and all questions of foreign policy properly adjusted.

A conflict once begun, partial defeat or even a recoil with anything like equal forces, and the possession of any considerable portion of the Southern country by the insurgents, would demoralize our own Government, create disaffection among our loyal people, prostrate public credit, and paralyze individual prosperity. It would inaugurate a guerilla system, a sort of feudal conflict, the end of which no sagacity can predict.

The result would be protracted sectional alienation, implacable hatreds, and incurable animosities not to be obliterated in a century. A long, wearisome, and protracted conflict is not in accordance with the spirit and genius of our people, and is at variance with all their moral and material interests.

Half a million of earnest and determined men are now

anxiously awaiting to rally to the defence of the Constitution, the maintenance of the Union, and the inviolability of our flag, on any terms the Government may dictate, and for any period they may be required. They well realize that each age must be the guardian of its own freedom, and they are willing to attest their devotion to their country with their blood.

2. This formidable array would place the struggle beyond all possibility of doubt, and the remotest risk of failure, while the moral effect upon the insurgents would be certain and inevitable. This is shown by the energetic demonstrations of the general Government in Maryland and Missouri, where defection was rapidly ripening into treason and secession ; like beneficial results will follow, whenever the remaining insurgent sections are visited by an overwhelming force and summary action.

3. It would thus be economy in money, economy to the industry of the country, always prostrated by intestine divisions ; and above all, it would diminish the effusion of blood, exalt our policy, and be a crowning act of humanity.

4. As a nation, we have asserted the "Monroe Doctrine," the controlling influence of our Republican Government on this continent. But in less than six months from the inception of our domestic troubles, Spain, not even classed as one of the great powers, has treated with contempt the principle we have so boldly proclaimed. The Queen has recently, by a final act of ratification, transferred to Spain, a European power, dominion over the larger portion of the island of St. Domingo, an important and commanding position upon our South-eastern boundary.

5. If this is any indication of European policy, owing to

our present domestic afflictions, what is to be our course, and where the end? The great Western powers, England and France, will soon seek to control the Gulf of Mexico, and with it European predominance in Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean sea.

6. We have the men, the wealth, and the patriotism; have been blessed with an abundant harvest the past year, with the promise of an equal one in the present. At no period of our national existence have we been better prepared to test the capacity of the Government for its own preservation.

It is respectfully submitted, whether it is not sound policy and good judgment, to put forth our overwhelming strength and numbers, in crushing out this wicked and treasonable rebellion, and letting the European world realize the extent and magnitude of our military and material forces.

The Federal authority then reestablished in every section of the country, by a comparatively bloodless and moral victory, the Union spirit again rallying unfettered, would speedily restore peace, order, and tranquillity to our distracted country.

HIRAM WALBRIDGE.

NEW YORK, *May 23d*, 1861.

NEW YORK, *May 27th*, 1861.

DEAR SIR :—I have spent the last two days in Washington urging the general Government to augment the call for volunteers, and to accept all who are willing to enlist for the war, so as to place at least six hundred thousand men under immediate enrolment, of which, half that number should never leave the field until this odious rebellion is annihilated, and the tranquillity of the country again perfectly restored.

I am convinced that the only way to make this war bloodless is to demonstrate our overwhelming strength and numbers. I have endeavored everywhere to give this opinion currency, but am constantly met with the idea of expense, and a discussion as to the policy as well as the difficulty of effecting it.

Believing it to be a humane and Christian measure to speedily terminate the war by demonstrating our ability to do so, I am sure the people of the United States have no other desire than to preserve the country indivisible and the Constitution inviolable; but they mean to achieve this at all hazards. Such a demonstration would, in my judgment, strengthen the hands of the Union men that really exist at the South, and would enable us to terminate the contest with great economy in blood and treasure,—would, most certainly, elevate our national character in Europe, and could not fail to exercise an important influence upon the counsel of her leading powers as to their action, while the great Republic is crushing out rebellion among a portion of her misguided and rebellious citizens, and indicating the strength and power of a people whose Government is poised upon the foundation of popular equality, sustained by popular intelligence.

Mingling as you do in your own State, immediately and directly

with the people, who are to bear in common with others the burden and expense of the conflict, will you not give me your views, if consistent with my own, or otherwise, that I may employ them in securing the proposed action, and in strengthening the hands of the President, to whom Providence has confided the arbitrament of the greatest question of this age: "Whether a republican government of thirty millions of people, and able to withstand any foreign aggression, however formidable, is not equally able to preserve its own nationality when assailed by domestic treason and rebellion?"

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[signed] HIRAM WALBRIDGE.

To Hon. ———, Governor &c., of ———.

From GOVERNOR JOHN A. ANDREW, of Mass.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
Executive Department. }
 Council Chamber, Boston, May 28th, 1861.

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

SIR :—His Excellency, Governor Andrew, orders me to acknowledge most courteously your favor of the 27th instant, which relates to the prosecution of the present war.

He desires me to express to you, in concurrence with your views, not merely the opinion, but the earnest and solemn conviction of himself and the people of Massachusetts, that the whole energies of the country should be condensed, to crush, to demolish, to annihilate rebellion.

No requisition of the Federal Government upon this State, for this righteous purpose, will seem onerous to us. Ten regiments of infantry are anxiously waiting to be detailed into active service. The spirit of our people is thoroughly aroused. A well settled intellectual conviction combines with a fervent moral sense of duty into a determination that nothing can shake, to spend the last man and the last dollar in maintaining the supremacy of the Federal Government.

His Excellency would be delighted to receive a requisition for *twenty* regiments, as his part of an army for the war, and they should come as soon as arms can be placed in their hands. I have no question that we can send out a regiment a week, for the rest of the year, after all the present requisitions are filled; and the permission to do so would be hailed with delight. Arms, equipments, camp-equipage, wagon trains, subsistence, everything shall come with every regiment, *if required*; and nothing shall be left undone to make another rebellion impossible, while this generation lasts. The day of compromise with treason has irrevocably past, and the day of absolute victory shall be made made to come, if we fight for a century.

We deem it absurd that the Government, which, in taking Kozta out from under the Austrian guns, established the principle that every man claiming the protection of the Federal flag should be defended everywhere, should leave thousands of Union-loving men, who implore that protection in the seceding States, a prey to the most infamous and piratical confederacy that ever called itself a Government.

There is a perfect unanimity of sentiment in Massachusetts. Party names and party creeds are utterly ignored and forgotten. The preservation of the Union, the support of the Government, and the emphatic punishment and solemn extinction of traitors are the Catholic religion of us all—a religion of mercy. We have always been impressed with the wisdom of Washington, who, when advised that five thousand men would suffice to quell Shay's rebellion, replied, "*Then I will send fifteen thousand; there can be no mistake about that.*" His Excellency is fully impressed with the value of the similar course that you suggest, and would gladly relieve the Federal Government for the present, so far as he may, of our proportion of the incidental burden attending so large a force.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) HOR. BINNEY SARGENT,
Aide-de-Camp.

From GOVERNOR CHARLES S. OLDEN, of New Jersey.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, }
Executive Department, }
 Trenton, May 29th, 1861. }

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE.

SIR:—I have duly received your interesting letter of the 27th inst, relative to the importance of the Government accepting volunteers for the war until an army of six hundred thousand men are enrolled. There can be no doubt that such a demonstration of strength would impress foreign nations advantageously for our country, and there is probably as little question that the loyal States have the power to place such an army in the field. These States can, I, think, endure a long war, or can put forth any required force that would secure a speedy termination to hostilities. Whether it is now wise for the Government to put forth its full strength in the outset, that such demonstration may be a humane saving of blood, or to husband its powers, is a question of State policy, upon which—confined as my attention has been to the discharge of duties within this State—I am not prepared to express an opinion. I am happy the Government has the counsel in this crisis of leading military men, and with the Government thus aided, I prefer leaving these questions. In relation to the people of New Jersey, I can say that, in common with the citizens of other loyal States, they are prepared to respond to the calls the Government may make, and at all times to do their full duty in maintaining this nation as it is.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES S. OLDEN.

From GOVERNOR ERASTUS FAIRBANKS, of Vermont.

Executive Department, }
 St. Johnsbury, May 31st, 1861. }

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York:

DEAR SIR:—I concur fully in the views expressed in your valued favor of the 27th instant, and am happy to assure you that such are the views and earnest expressions of the citizens of Vermont.

The sentiment everywhere expressed is, that the rebellion must

be crushed, at whatever cost of men and treasure; and in the absence of any reliable information as to the plans of the Government, great solicitude has often been expressed lest a temporizing policy should be adopted. Still, as a whole, our citizens have entire confidence in the discretion and firmness of the administration, and only wait to know in what way they can contribute to its efficiency.

While an aggregation of undisciplined troops, without effective arms, would be premature and of little avail, I am solicitous that with all possible despatch the Government should provide for arming, officering, and mustering into service the largest available force necessary for ensuring, in the shortest period, the suppression of this wicked rebellion at whatever expense. No sacrifice is too great to be made for the accomplishment of such an object.

A pressure of official duties prevents my writing more, but I will take the liberty to resume the subject by a future mail.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

ERASTUS FAIRBANKS.

From **GOVERNOR ISAAC WASHBURN**, of **Maine**.

AUGUSTA, *June 1st*, 1861.

HON. H. WALBRIDGE,

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 27th May, addressed to me at Orono, was received by me in this city to-day.

Heartily agreeing with you in every word you say, I have endeavored to impress the importance of a policy like that which you urge with so much force, upon the administration at Washington; and, although but four regiments have been called for from this State, six have been already formed and put into camp, and companies are already raised sufficient to make up two or three more.

It is my intention to keep two or more regiments in a camp of instruction, where they can learn the discipline and tactics so essential to the making of good soldiers, and to keep them ready to march at an hour's notice. As fast as a regiment shall be called to leave the State, it is my intention to supply its place by bringing another into the camp.

This course is, I am sure, in harmony with the opinions and wishes of the people of the State, and they would be glad, as I should, if the administration would favor a policy that would justify us in doing still more.

(Signed)

Very truly yours,

I. WASHBURN, JR.

From GOVERNOR WILLIAM DENNISON, of Ohio.

THE STATE OF OHIO.
Executive Department, }
Columbus, June 1st, 1861. }

DEAR SIR: I thank you for your letter of May 27th, and assure you of my hearty concurrence in what you say relating to the true policy of the Government, being in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war. On this point, I have had no doubt from the beginning of active hostilities, and every day confirms me in the opinion that any other line of policy would be fatal to the Government and to the country. At the same time, I am not prepared to give an opinion as to the proper force to be organized. That is peculiarly a military question which I prefer to leave to the Government to determine. I have favored the immediate enlistment of three hundred thousand volunteers, which, properly distributed soon, would, it seems to me, be sufficient to crush out the rebellion. I will cheerfully aid in any movement for the organization of that amount of force, and will not discourage the increased amount you suggest.

I will immediately communicate with the Secretary of War on the subject.

(Signed)

Very respectfully,

W. DENNISON.

To GENERAL HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

From GOVERNOR ICHABOD GODWIN, of New Hampshire.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
Executive Department, }
Portsmouth, June 1st, 1861. }

DEAR SIR:—Mr. Berry, Governor elect of New Hampshire, has sent me your letter of the 27th ult. I fully endorse the sentiments

you avow, believing with you that the only way to stop this rebellion without great waste of treasure and blood, is to show that we have the ability to put it down, and a determination to do so.

New Hampshire is ready to respond to any requisition made upon her by the General Government.

I have recently despatched one regiment, and have another of 1,046 men, nearly ready to move, and they are enlisted for the war.

My term of office expires in a few days, but I have no doubt my successor will meet any exigency which may arise.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

ICHABOD GODWIN,

Governor of New Hampshire.

To HON. HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

From GOVERNOR AUSTIN BLAIR, of Michigan.

MICHIGAN,
Executive Office,
Lansing, June 3d, 1861. }

HON. HIRAM WALBRIDGE :

DEAR SIR:—I have this moment received your letter of May 27th, having been absent from the Capital at the time it arrived. I hasten now to say, that your views meet my hearty approbation, and nothing will give me greater pleasure than to coöperate in any effort to procure their adoption at Washington.

The Government, after persistent teasing, have allowed me to furnish from Michigan, four regiments, and no more. These are now all ready to march, and in good order. Four more quite as good are claiming to be received, and refuse to be satisfied when I tell them they are not desired. I think it safe to say, that at least nine-tenths of our people think the force called for entirely too small, and persist in maintaining that more troops will be received. I cannot stop their recruiting. Companies are all the time forming now, and they fairly weary me with their incessant demand to be organized and instructed. The truth is simply—the people feel that they have

the power to crush this rebellion at a blow, and they cannot see why they should not be allowed at once to do it. As to expense, I believe in the long run it will *cost* less, and the saving of blood would be immense. It is also of great consequence to demonstrate the power of the Government to quell rebellion quickly. Every way it seems better to me, that the force should be made overwhelming as soon as possible.

Hoping you may have entire success in your efforts,

I remain, your obedient servant,

(Signed) AUSTIN BLAIR.

From GOVERNOR ALEX. RAMSEY, of Minnesota.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, }
Executive Office, }
 Saint Paul, June 5th, 1861. }

MY DEAR GENERAL :

Your letter I received to-day, and hasten to respond to your inquiries.

The people of Minnesota have the utmost confidence in the patriotism, the energy and the foresight of the Secretary of War and of General Scott, and believe that all that the occasion requires will be done by them to preserve the honor and the integrity of the Government; a dissolution of the Union by force or by any species of compromise they will never assent to. They, so far as I know, are of your opinion, that a very large force, all that the Government can handle, should at once be called out, believing this the most economical war policy; as it is desirable that this war should be brought to a speedy conclusion, not only to save expenditure of life and money, but to prevent the diversion of the habits of the people from the peaceful pursuits of industry to those of the camp.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) ALEX. RAMSEY.

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

From GOVERNOR WM. A. BUCKINGHAM, of Connecticut.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, }
Hartford, June 6th, 1861. }

DEAR SIR :

Your esteemed favor of the 27th ult. was duly received, the general sentiments of which I cordially approve. I have not been able to give it earlier attention.

In reply I would say, that the great mass of our citizens regard the present rebellion as the greatest crime ever committed against human authority, and feel the importance of suppressing it at the earliest moment. We want no parley with treason and no compromises. We do not suppose that the public peace can be restored, nor that submission to governmental authority can be secured at once. But, without faltering, we should press on as fast as we can with prudence, uniting and concentrating our physical powers, and cease not our efforts until the supremacy of the Government is acknowledged in every section of our country, and the leaders in this rebellion are left without a *standing* upon the soil they have stained with infamy. I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. A. BUCKINGHAM.

HON. HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

From GOVERNOR RICHARD YATES, of Illinois.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Springfield, June 10th, 1861. }

DEAR SIR :

Upon my return from Washington, I find your letter of May 27th. I heartily endorse your views, and add, that I think the country will owe you a debt of gratitude for your efforts to bring about the true policy for the Government in the present crisis.

My attention has been principally directed to the course of policy which should be pursued in the West, and I think my best way of bringing my views before you is to furnish you with a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Department at Washington, and also, a copy of a letter addressed by the Governors of Ohio and Indiana in conjunction with myself to the Department, which I herewith enclose.

I have presented my views in person at Washington to the same effect.

The whole power of the Government—all its men and all its means—even to the extent of great loss of life and national bankruptcy for a century, should be employed to crush out this infamous rebellion. To vindicate this Government is worth all it can possibly cost. As a historic fact, and the ultimate effect upon the liberties of mankind and upon the future peace and perpetuity of the country, the cost in blood and in treasure is not to be calculated. But, as you well remark, it will cost less to prosecute the war vigorously. The war will sooner come to an end and be more humane, and the precedent worth far more, if a force of overwhelming power is at once brought into the field.

Wishing you all success in your most patriotic efforts,

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

(Signed) RICHARD YATES.

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

From GOVERNOR ANDREW CURTIN, of Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, }
Harrisburg, Pa., *June 15th*, 1861. }

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE :

MY DEAR SIR :—Your letter of the 27th ultimo, I supposed, had been promptly answered, and regretted to learn from yours of the 12th inst., that, amid my multiplied duties, a request so important, and suggestions so valuable as those contained in your first communication, had been neglected.

It must be apparent to every thinking man, that the course suggested by you is, in the main, founded on sound reason, and prompted by the highest dictates of humanity and national philanthropy. In accordance with your views, and for the promotion of ends so well pointed out by you, the State of Pennsylvania is now uniforming, equipping, and arming fifteen regiments, to be ready in a few days for the field, and to be transferred to the service of the General Gov-

ernment whenever desired, increasing her forces, and strengthening, not only the Government, but the Union sentiment throughout those States in which it may have opponents—giving, as I believe, a moral force and power to this great national movement not to be acquired save by a demonstration of actual military force, and a display of well-appointed troops.

These, standing upon the borders of the disaffected States will form a bulwark of civil and religious liberty, challenging the admiration of foreign nations, and calling in terms not to be misunderstood, upon the bold and bad men who head this hideous rebellion, to return to their allegiance ere they reap the terrible reward which, if this force is let loose upon them, is as unerring as it will be terrific and conclusive.

Very respectfully,

(Signed)

A. G. CURTIN.

From GOVERNOR JOHN A. ANDREW, of Mass.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
Executive Department, Council Chamber,
 Boston, June 12th, 1861. }

To General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York :

SIR :—In relation to that energetic method of prosecuting the war which you suggest, I have to say, that if you can procure—in addition to the last requisition upon this State for six regiments, which will undoubtedly be in the field by the end of this month—a further requisition for ten regiments, thoroughly armed, equipped, clothed and provided with tents, baggage train, rations and subsistence stores; these advances will be made by this State, and such a requisition answered to the letter within forty days from the reception of the order here, men enlisted for three years, unless sooner discharged. We have already enlisted organized companies enough to make six regiments of the ten referred to, as a proposed requisition, and entirely independent of the six regiments already ordered, and of any troops now in the field.

(Signed)

JOHN A. ANDREW.

From HON. SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, }
Washington City, June 17th, 1861. }

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York.

SIR: I have read with pleasure the letter of His Excellency, Governor John A. Andrew, addressed to you, under date of the 12th instant, stating, that if you can procure a further requisition by the Government for ten additional regiments from the State of Massachusetts, besides the last requisition for six, they will, within forty days, be sent, thoroughly armed, equipped, clothed, and provided with tents, baggage train, rations and subsistence stores,—men enlisted for three years, unless sooner discharged.

You will please advise Governor Andrew that the necessary requisition will immediately be made, and for your action in the premises accept the thanks of this Department.

(Signed) SIMON CAMERON.

Secretary of War.

From GOVERNOR ANDREW, of Mass.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, }
Executive Department, }
Boston, June 23d, 1861. }

MY DEAR SIR:—I yesterday received a communication from the Secretary of War requiring the ten regiments offered through your intervention for U. S. service from this State; and I beg to express my cordial appreciation of the great public service rendered by you in urging, in a manner so patriotic, and by means so methodical and intelligent, a policy in which I most thoroughly concur, as alike humane, wise, and statesmanlike. I trust we shall see the end of this war in a year from the 19th June, 1861, and also, that its conclusion will demonstrate the vitality of Democratic Republican government, the heroic manhood of our people, their faith in the fundamental ideas on which our Government and our social fabric stand; and which shall moreover, settle forever, on immutable foundations of

moral and eternal right, the future of our Republic. Verily, as the King of Prussia remarked some years ago—"Progress is stronger than we are." The beginning of an end grand, glorious, and sublime is already here, and it is beyond the present power (thank God) of any man to do more than to swim with the Providential tide, or consent to be overwhelmed beneath its waves.

Believe me, very sincerely, faithfully and obediently yours.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

General HIRAM WALBRIDGE, New York City.

From GOVERNOR ANDREW, of Mass.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
Executive Department, }
 Boston, June 11th, 1861. }

To General WALBRIDGE.

MY DEAR SIR :—We have here in Massachusetts a full battery of light artillery, the equipments all complete, and the cannon rifled, which has been prepared under the direction and supervision of Major Cobb, already drafted into Federal service from this Commonwealth, and who held command of that battery until within a few years past.

Major Cobb, although a Boston lawyer, is a gentleman of much military accomplishment and as fully adapted for the work as any man in New England. All the men of this new battery have been carefully selected by him personally, and trained under his eye; and the equipments being new, I regard the battery as decidedly superior in efficiency to that now in the service. I think it would be an honest service to the Federal Government, if this new battery would be drafted into the forces of the United States; I think that it is needed, that it is efficient, and that it would do itself credit in the field. We are definitely informed by Major General Butler that it would be an agreeable addition to his force in Virginia.

I shall consider that any effort on your part, to procure a requi-

sition for it by the Federal Government, will be a benefit to the country.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) JOHN A. ANDREW.

From **HON. SIMON CAMERON**, Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, June 19th, 1861. }

General **HIRAM WALBRIDGE**, New York.

DEAR SIR: You are at liberty to advise His Excellency, Governor John A. Andrew, that the battery of light artillery tendered by the State of Massachusetts through you, to the General Government, will be accepted, and that the necessary requisition will be made for its being mustered into the forces of the United States.

With assurances of regard, yours truly,

(Signed) SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War*.

From **HON. SIMON CAMERON**, Secretary of War.

Washington City, June 20th, 1861.

DEAR GENERAL:

I yesterday addressed you, thanking you in the name of the Government for your patriotic exertions in aiding to increase our Union forces. I now write to enquire if you are willing I should designate you for the position of Brigadier-General in the United States Volunteers.

Your experience in the militia in your earlier years would be of essential service, and your capacity for command would not fail to be of usefulness to the country. Let me hear from you, or see you on the subject soon.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) SIMON CAMERON.

General **HIRAM WALBRIDGE**, New York.

TO **HON. SIMON CAMERON**, Secretary of War.

Washington City, June 21st, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR :

I am under very great obligations for your generous proposition to name me for so important and responsible a position as Brigadier-General in the United States Volunteers.

But at this time, I conscientiously believe I can do more good in endeavoring to arouse the country to the real magnitude of this gigantic rebellion and the great exertions that should be at once put forth to suppress it, than by the acceptance of any public position.

Should the contest be protracted and the rebellion not suppressed in a reasonable time, I should then feel it my duty to relinquish all my other pursuits, and in any capacity where I can render the most essential service, I shall be found loyally battling for the cause of the Union and the Constitution.

Wishing you all prosperity for your very unexpected kindness,

I remain yours most sincerely,

HIRAM WALBRIDGE.

HON. SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

From **PRESIDENT LINCOLN.**

Washington, Nov. 18th, 1861.

General **HIRAM WALBRIDGE.**

DEAR SIR : Your note reminding me of the fact that as early as April last you pointed out to me on the map Port Royal and Beaufort as advantageous places to make lodgements on the Southern coast, is received. I am free to confess you were the first who called my attention to that particular locality. I also remember that you insisted we should call six hundred thousand men into the field, a considerable length of time before I had brought my own mind up to anything near so large a scale.

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.







